

Pointe Mouillee Manager's Update

2015 Season - Week of 10/4



Weather

Temperatures warmed up to the low 70's with W-SW winds.

Waterfowl Abundance

We are seeing substantial number of ducks all over the game area; Mallards are continuing to increase with large numbers of birds in the marsh units. Teal are in good numbers while geese numbers remain low compared to past years.

Hunting Conditions

2015 was a very tuff spring at PMSGGA. PMSGGA has very heavy muck soils and takes a while to dry out every spring; our corn planting window is the last week of May and the month of June. This year it rained 26 out of 30 days in June accumulating just over 13 inches of rain. The fields were not able to be worked until the second week of July and even then the tractor had to be pulled out with a bulldozer multiple times. There will not be any finished corn at PMSGGA this year, we have gone back and put in a few strips in zones 11, 12, 13, and 14 in the hopes that they will grow enough to provide some cover but there is not enough time left for it to produce corn. The planting window for buckwheat runs through the start of August and we did not have any problem getting all of that in.

Long Pond Unit (2-10)

Managed Cattail Marsh – same as last year, great cover, great potholes, and great marsh hunting opportunity.

Nelson Unit (11 - 14)

Flooded Ag Fields – Cover will be scarce. There will be lots of buckwheat and available food; cover and concealment will be the key in 11 and 12. Cover will be a little better in 13 and 14. Patches of taller vegetation (reed canary grass, phragms, and wild millet) have been left to grow and provide cover. There will be a lot of buckwheat here as well with a checkerboard like landscape of places to hide.

Walpatich Unit (15-19, 21)

Ag fields and cattail marsh – There will not be any corn in the Walpatich either but the Walpatich has cattail growth in pockets adjacent to some of the Ag plantings throughout these zones that hunters will be able to hide in. Zones that don't have as much cattail cover will have some of last year's corn stalks and taller reed canary grass for hunters to hide.

Walpatich Unit (20, 22)

Managed cattail marsh – 20 and 22 will be the same as last year, great cover, great potholes, great marsh hunting opportunity.

Humphries Unit

Will eventually be on the deep side again this year; we are still working on funds and designs to fix the leaking tubes on the south causeway. The leaking tubes make it impossible to hold the Humphries Unit at the desired depth. It will once again be deeper to the east; the upside is that the deeper water will allow for more hunting opportunity up into the western side.

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Vermet Unit

Was drawn down in June to promote the growth of vegetation on the north and east parts of the unit. Cattail seeds were broadcast and we also broadcast millet and buckwheat on some of the exposed mudflats. The west and south parts of the unit will once again be very good marsh hunting.

Bad Creek

This is a new unit in just its second season with water control. It is positioned on the west side of the Humphries Unit off of Roberts Rd. It is still a work in progress but there will be some flooded buckwheat and lots of opportunity for walk-in hunting.

Hunter Numbers

N/A

Waterfowl Harvest

N/A

What To Expect This Week

Temperatures will drop to the mid 60's with partly cloudy skies and SW winds.

Upcoming Events

Pointe Mouillee will be having an open house on Thursday, October 8th from 6:00-9:00PM. Everyone is welcome, we will have aerial photos to view, maps, and hunting digests available. We will also be selling licenses and can answer any questions anyone may have about the game area and the upcoming waterfowl and hunting seasons. We will also be taking a tour of the game area before dark.

Wildlife Assistant Chuck Pulling, Wildlife Biologist Zach Cooley, Wildlife Technician Tammy Giroux and Wildlife Biologist and Supervisor Joe Robison will be on hand to answer questions.

Other Comments

Opening weekend at Pointe Mouillee is not pre-registered. We will be having a regular, open draw for the weekend. Saturday afternoon is a youth priority hunt, meaning you must have a youth ages 10-16 in your party to participate in the draw.

